

DETAILED ACTION

1. The preliminary amendment filed June 8, 2007 has been entered. Claims 21-41 remain pending.

Specification

2. The substitute specification filed June 8, 2007 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Safran on November 18, 2010.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: In Figs. 1, 28 and 29, the encircling of the reference characters is to be removed. Additionally, reference characters 1.1, 1.2, 31, 33, 44 and 55 are to be removed from the figures as they are not mentioned in the specification. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 21-41 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: US Patent 6,653,377; US Patent 5,944,070; US Patent 4,991,633; and German Document DE 20001005 represent the nearest prior art systems and methods to Applicant's claimed invention. The documents disclose various systems and methods for transferring bulk material without contamination of the material. However, none of these documents, either alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest Applicant's claimed invention. In particular, the cited prior art fails to disclose a method for transferring bulk goods without contamination including the steps of: tying a hose film at a tying point beyond a connection tube so that a free end of the hose film remains beyond the tying point; forming a clamping connection so that a portion of the free end of the hose film remains beyond the clamping connection; tying of the free end of the hose film remaining beyond the clamping point; pulling hose film out of a hose film supply until a region of clean hose film is available beyond the connection tube; sealing of the hose film at two adjacent sealing points in the region of clean hose film; cutting the hose film at a point between the two adjacent sealing points, one of the two sealing points remaining attached to hose film after said cutting; pulling of hose film out of the hose film supply and tying the same again at a new tying point that is at a distance from the sealing point remaining in the region of the cutting point; and removing the sealing point remaining in

the region of the cutting point and widening of the hose film between the cutting point and the new tying point to form a funnel shape.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICOLAS A. ARNETT whose telephone number is (571)270-5062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Timothy L Maust/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3751

NAA